

3. to state whether the scheme approved by the Govern-
ment has been fully carried out, and if not, what is it that still
remains to be done, and whether they will also be soon carried
out?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—1. The scheme
showing the statement of improvements for the better sanitation
of the town is appended. (*Vide Appendix V.*) All the works
suggested therein were fully carried out.

2. and 3. *Vide* answer to question No. 154 of the budget
session of 1101.

The Mulattura Irrigation System.

476. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government
be pleased to inform the House:—

- (1) how many acres of land were reclaimed after settle-
ment under the Mulattura Irrigation System;
- (2) were they given water this year till now;
- (3) what will be the approximate acreage of failure of
crops owing to the inability of the Irrigation Department to
give water under the Kunnamkattupati Irrigation System;
- (4) what they propose to do to combat with such draughts
in future?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(1)
530·70 acres.

- (2) Water has been given to these lands till now.
- (3) There has been no complete failure of crops to any ap-
preciable extent. But crops in about 300 acres of *niloms* are
reported to have been seriously affected. Fieldwar lists of
crops affected are not maintained.
- (4) Droughts cannot be absolutely prevented, if rains fail
and there is no water in the river.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Why was water given to the
new reclamations? The Government was not bound to give
them water.

President.—To which clause do you refer?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I ask why was water given to
the new conversions, when there was not even water for the
settled lands for which the Government was bound to give
water.

President.—“Water has been given to these lands till
now”. Is there anything in that answer further to be elucid-
ated?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Yes, Sir. Water should not
have been given to this land.

President.—The Government say that water has been
given to this land.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—My point is only after giving water to the settled lands for which the Government was bound to supply, water should have been given to this land. Preference ought to have been given to the old lands.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—His question is this. When there was not sufficient water even for the settled lands, why was water given to the new reclaimed lands?

President.—Now, you want to point out that the Government committed an error in giving water to the reclaimed lands, when they were, as a matter of fact, bound to give water to the old lands. You point out the differential treatment of the Government. They ought to have given water to the old lands. In this they have done a wrong. The question ought to have been put in this way. "Why was water given to reclaimed lands, when water has not been given to settled lands?" But neither the questions nor the answers given bring out that point.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Could not the failure of crops be prevented, if there are reservoirs? It is said that "draughts cannot be absolutely prevented, if rains fail, and there is no water in the river."

President.—Of course, if reservoirs are constructed, and water is sufficiently stored, draughts can be prevented, and we can get more paddy.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—When the Survey was made, it was found that a reservoir was absolutely necessary.

President.—Nobody will dispute that. It is necessary for irrigation. But if there is no rain, how can you get water?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Even though rains may fail in Cochin, if we have rains in the Anamalais, there will be water in the river. But if there is no rain in the Anamalais also, I do not know whether human agency can prevent draught.

President.—If we have water stored in the reservoir, that will be a means of preventing draught to some extent. To what extent we can prevent it we cannot say. At any rate, we must grant that reservoirs will suit the purpose.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Are not the settled lands to be given water?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Generally, during scarcity seasons, we give water to lands that will yield more and consume less. We, first of all, take lands that will yield more and consume less, and if there is excess water, we give it to lands which consume more and yield less.